



MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Meeting: Wednesday, 16th December 2015 at 7.15 pm in The Arts Centre, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton.

Present: Councillor Young (Mayor)

Councillors Ashton, Atkins, Barrow, Boynton, Claff, Douglas, Dowson, Easter, Flower, Greenhalgh, Grooby, Haken, Hardy, Helliwell, Howe, Johnson, Kappes, Kemp, Kelly, Kerr, Lomax, Longos, McCabe, A McKeown, Oakley, Perkins, Pritchard, Quinn, Robins, Sizeland, Sloman, Stone, Thrane, Todd, Walton, J Wharmby and G Wharmby.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fox, Huddleston, Jenner, R McKeown and Siddall.

At the beginning of the meeting the Mayor asked Members of the Council to join him in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor and Mayor Dr Peter Coackley, former Mayoress Mary McKeown and former Mayoress Dorothy Kennett who had recently passed away.

16/28 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
(Agenda Item 2)

There were no disclosures of interest made.

16/29 MINUTES
(Agenda item 3)

It was moved by Councillor Ashton and seconded by Councillor Kemp that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

The motion was carried and the Mayor was authorised to sign the minutes.

16/30 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Agenda item 4)

The Mayor thanked councillors for contributing to a collection in lieu of sending Christmas cards. Proceeds would be passed to Blythe House Hospice.



16/31 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2015
(Agenda item 6)

a) Updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19

It was moved by Councillor Thrane and seconded by Councillor Kemp that the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (Appendix A of the report) be approved.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

16/32 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUDIT & REGULATORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015
(Agenda item 7)

a) Appointment of Mayor 2016/17

It was moved by Councillor Pritchard and seconded by Councillor Claff that the Conservative Group be invited to make a nomination for the appointment of Mayor of the Borough and Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2016/17. It was announced that the Conservative Group would propose Councillor G. Wharmby as Mayor at the next Annual Council meeting.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

16/33 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2015
(Agenda item 8)

a) Standards Committee - Annual Report 2014/15

It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sloman that the report be noted.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

b) Parish Council Representative

It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sloman that Councillor Tim Norton be appointed as a parish council representative to the Council's Standards Committee.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.



16/34 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2015
(Agenda item 9)

a) Deregulation Act 2015

It was moved by Councillor Perkins and seconded by Councillor Stone that that the contents of the report be noted and that the proposed fee for issuing a five year Private Hire Operator licence be approved subject to the statutory consultation process.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

b) Licensing Act 2003 – Revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021

It was moved by Councillor Perkins and seconded by Councillor Stone that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021 as attached at Appendix A of the report be approved and that the final Licensing Policy be presented to Full Council as the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021 in line with the statutory requirements.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

c) Gambling Act 2005 – Revised Statement of Principles 2016-2018

It was moved by Councillor Perkins and seconded by Councillor Stone that the revised Statement of Principles as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

16/35 LOCAL PLAN – LEADER'S UPDATE
(Agenda item 10)

It was moved by Councillor Ashton and seconded by Councillor Kemp that the update be noted.

When put to the meeting it was RESOLVED accordingly.

16/36 NOTICE OF MOTION – TRADE UNION BILL
(Agenda item 11)

It was moved by Councillor Sloman and seconded by Councillor Greenhalgh that:



This council notes:

1. That this Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. This Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.
2. Concern that the Trade Union Bill which is currently being proposed by the Government and which would affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole. This Council rejects this Bill's attack on local democracy and the attack on our right to manage our own affairs.
3. This Council is clear that facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions to suit our own specific needs, has a valuable role to play in the creation of good quality and responsive local services. Facility time should not be determined or controlled by Government in London.
4. This Council is happy with the arrangements we currently have in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through our payroll. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations and a cheap and easy to administer system that supports our staff. This system is an administrative matter for the Council and should not be interfered with by the UK Government.
5. The Council notes that the Bill and associated secondary legislation will:
 - Allow agency labour to be used to substitute for striking workers, currently outlawed, which would be deeply divisive and, with agency workers often doing unfamiliar jobs, could pose a serious health and safety risk to themselves and others
 - Introduce very high thresholds for industrial ballots, with an extra threshold in certain public services, without doing anything to improve the ability of workers to participate in ballots
 - Severely restrict the right to picket and peacefully protest, including organising campaigns through social media
 - Significantly reduce trade union facility time and withdraw check off union contributions in the public sector, irrespective of the wishes of the employer
 - Require union members to 'contract in' to their union's Political Fund every 5 years, thereby significantly reducing the ability of trade unions either to campaign on political issues or to support political parties.



This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills stating the Council's opposition to their Trade Union Bill, and
2. Calls on the Government to scrap the Bill and all associated regulation/secondary legislation.

This Council further resolves to:

1. Continue to recognise that trade unions form an important part of good relations with our employees and we believe trade unions are a positive force for good in the workplace, and that it will continue its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy and will take every measure possible to maintain its autonomy with regard to facility time and the continuing use of check-off.

As an amendment it was moved by Councillor Kemp and seconded by Councillor McCabe that:

This council notes the following:

1. The Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. The Council also values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and recognises their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.
2. The Council understands that facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions to suit our own specific needs, has a valuable role to play in the creation of good quality and responsive local services.
3. The Council also recognises that in the interests of transparency and fairness to the council taxpayer, such facility time allocated to trade union activity must be relevant and proportionate.
4. While recognising the contribution made by trade unions in many areas of industrial relations, the Council considers that membership of trade unions is an entirely voluntary and personal decision and no employee should feel pressured to commence or maintain membership against their inclination or preference.
5. The Council recognises that the widespread use of bank accounts and ease of making regular payments means that it may now be appropriate to review the practice of payroll deduction of union dues and bring them into line with many other staff and professional organisations to whom payment of subscriptions is made direct and outside employment.



This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Monitor developments in respect of the Trade Union Bill as it progresses through Parliament with such amendments as may be made, and assesses any impact that the proposed legislation may have on local practice.

When put to the meeting the amendment was RESOLVED accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 8.11 p.m.

MAYOR